

BICH/GENE 491W
Research with Writing Credit (1 credit hour) Syllabus

Course Coordinator

Timothy Devarenne

Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs in Biochemistry and Genetics

Course Description

Biochemistry and Genetics majors are required to take four scheduled credit hours of BICH/GENE 491 as part of the degree plan. The fourth scheduled credit hour must be taken as a writing-intensive course in which students will write a thesis reporting the results of their laboratory research. The goal is to produce a document in the style of a research publication in biochemistry/genetics fields. Thus, drafts will be submitted for review to the faculty research supervisor, whose edits will be incorporated in various drafts until a final document is produced.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students will be expected to:

1. Locate and summarize published results related to their research project.
2. Incorporate comments and suggestions on draft documents into a revised draft.
3. Write a cogent document describing results of research in the style of a discipline-specific journal.
4. Utilize appropriate software to manage literature references and citations.

Registration Requirements

1. Undergraduate major in Biochemistry or Genetics
2. Application form signed by the faculty research supervisor agreeing to read and respond to drafts of written work.

Academic Integrity

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do."

Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services at disability@tamu.edu, call 979-845-1637, or for additional information, visit: <https://disability.tamu.edu/>

Assignments and Grading

By the end of week 3 of the semester, students must complete the following assignment:

- ❖ Watch each of these videos available through the TAMU Writing Center:
 - **Get Lit: The Literature Review**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9la5ytz9MmM>
 - **Science Writing: Practice Makes It (Almost) Perfect**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zPZtgVQSfc>
 - **Avoiding Plagiarism: Writing with Integrity**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1S1FZ-bn5E>
- ❖ Become familiar with either **EndNote** or **RefWorks** as a tool to manage references and create citations. These web sites are good places to start.
 - EndNote: <http://tamu.libguides.com/c.php?g=579536>
 - RefWorks: <http://tamu.libguides.com/refworks>
- ❖ Completion must be documented by submission of a signed form to both the faculty research supervisor and the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Program Office. This form will be sent to you via email from the Biochemistry & Biophysics Office. Please submit the completed form to biobiougradadv@tamu.edu

To keep students on track, a rough draft of the thesis, with the faculty research supervisor's signature, must be presented to the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Program Office. The rough draft will be due on the Q-drop deadline for each semester, accordingly.

- ❖ Drafts of the thesis must be submitted to the faculty research supervisor according to a schedule set up by the faculty research supervisor. A suggested schedule is presented in the table below. After receiving comments and suggestions from the faculty research supervisor, students will incorporate them into the final thesis.
- ❖ After the thesis is approved and graded by the faculty research supervisor, an electronic final version must be submitted to the Biochemistry and Genetics Undergraduate Programs Office. The following information **MUST** be included on the first page of the final paper: the student's full name, BICH 491 or GENE 491 (depending on which course the student is registered for), and the date. Any documents turned in without this information will not be accepted by the Undergrad Office.
- ❖ Grades will be determined as described in the table below:

Assignment	Approximate Length	Due Date (Semester Week)	Grade Weighting
Draft of Introduction	500-1000 words min	4	10%
Draft of Methods	500-1000 words min	6	10%
Draft of Entire Thesis	2000 words min	12	20%
Final Thesis	2000 words min	14	60%

Text Style

A style for an appropriate scientific journal will be recommended by the research supervisor.

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Request for Registration in BICH/GENE 491 W

Submit completed PDF form to biobiougradadv@tamu.edu

Student Name (print) Student UIN

Student Compliance Agreement

My signature confirms that I have read and agree to adhere to the writing requirements and editing process detailed in this document.

Student Signature

Course & Number (write BICH 491 or GENE 491) Yes No
Honors (Yes or No)

Semester Year

Tentative Thesis Title

Faculty Research Supervisor Name (please print clearly) Faculty Research Supervisor's UIN

Research Advisor Agreement

I agree to read and provide constructive comments on drafts of my student's thesis on a schedule that allows my student to complete his/her thesis and obtain a final grade from me by the end of the semester.

Signature of Faculty Research Supervisor Date

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Advisor Date

Registered Course & CRN Date Student Contacted